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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 20, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ANDY HARRIS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FORMER SENATOR CHARLES H. PERCY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, it was with great sadness that we received the news this past weekend of the passing of one of my long-time family friends and one of the most dedicated public servants I've ever had the privilege of knowing or serving with. I'm referring, of course, to Senator Charles Percy, who passed away on Saturday morning at the age of 91.

Senator Percy was someone whom I first met when I was a kid at summer

camp in Colorado. Tragically, his daughter Valerie had been murdered. And, of course, her twin is Sharon Percy Rockefeller, who serves with great distinction as the head of the WETA board and who has many other civic duties here in Washington, DC.

I met Senator Percy when we were at Valerie Lodge, which was named for his daughter, the camp in California; and at that moment, Mr. Speaker, I saw someone who was clearly very dedicated and extraordinarily principled. His entire life was dedicated to public service and to doing everything he possibly could to ensure that life was better for all around him.

I came to Congress a little more than a decade after I'd met him when I was at summer camp. He immediately took me under his wing, and he made the pilgrimage from the Senate here to the House of Representatives, and visited me in my office several times. I took my first trip with him to Mexico, and it was the U.S.-Mexico Interparliamentary Conference. I remember very vividly nearly three decades ago—well, actually, three decades ago—what it is that he said, Mr. Speaker.

He talked about the challenge and the relationship between the United States and Mexico, and he characterized his remarks as it related to his twin daughters, Sharon and Valerie. In that speech, he said, So many people talk about twins and the similarities. He said, For me, the greatness is to look at the differences between the two.

He carried that personal message as he referred to the challenging relationship between the United States of America and Mexico, and I was struck by that. He was chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and I was privileged to serve two terms here in the House while he served in the Senate.

So I want to say to his wonderful wife, Loraine, and to all of the other

children and relatives and friends of Senator Charles Percy that he lived an amazing life. It was one that was an inspiration to me, and I will greatly miss him.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF IMOGENE JOHNSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BOREN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of Imogene Johnson of Okemah, Oklahoma, who passed away on September 14, 2011, at the age of 90.

Imi, as we all knew her, was a very close friend of the Boren family, and I can remember seeing her face at some of my earliest campaign events. She was always there.

She was the wife of Oklahoma Fourth District Congressman Glen D. Johnson, Sr., and the mother to Glen D. Johnson, Jr., the former speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives and now our current Chancellor for Higher Education. She supported both her husband and her son faithfully, and I know her son especially will miss her.

Imi was a civic leader and a dedicated public servant. She was a member of the Okemah Chamber of Commerce, an active member and past president of the American Legion Auxiliary, and a member of the PEO. In 1999, the city of Okemah honored her by inducting her into the Okemah Hall of Fame for her dedication to her hometown.

Again, Imi was truly an inspiration to her beloved Oklahoma, and I am honored to have called her a friend. I know she has her son and other family scattered across the State of Oklahoma, particularly in Okemah. She has touched them and many, many other Oklahomans. Again, we will greatly miss her.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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